



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 JANUARY 1966

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1. South Vietnam

Among the many Viet Cong documents captured during last week's joint US-Australian operation northwest of Saigon were two containing information on Communist plans during and after the 21-23 January Tet holidays. They indicate that US troops are to be excluded from the Viet Cong's holiday cease-fire, but suggest that actions against US forces during the period will probably be limited in scale or aimed against particularly vulnerable US units.

Most of the documents were originated by relatively low-level Viet Cong units. It should be noted, however, that one of them, dated 4 January, contained instructions for strong coordinated Viet Cong action before and immediately after the holidays.

2. Vietnam

Increased Polish diplomatic activity involving Vietnam has been evident since Mr. Harriman's visit to Warsaw. It has involved

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the trip to Hanoi of a senior Polish foreign ministry official. This official is now returning to Warsaw by way of New Delhi.

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3. Yugoslavia

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4. India

Ambassador Bowles says that Indira Gandhi is still the heavy favorite. Morarji Desai continues to insist that he will not withdraw and thus the hopes for unanimity have largely faded away.

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5. Thailand

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6. Indonesia

Sukarno and his followers are making a direct pitch to the public in a new effort to win support.

Both Sukarno and Subandrio made speeches over the weekend, telling the people to let the president solve the problems at hand. Today Djakarta was plastered with pro-Sukarno signs and the palace evidently has begun to organize a "Sukarno Front."

The army apparently now believes that it went too far in supporting the recent student protests. The latest rally nearly got out of hand and the military commander has decided to ban all demonstrations in the capital.

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7. Dominican Republic

General Palmer has passed along his final observations on the Dominican situation as he relinquishes command there today.

The general believes that there is more than a fifty-fifty chance of bringing the country safely through to elections in June. However, if Bosch's party wins, this would mean "big trouble" ahead. Bosch could be installed only with the help of the Inter-American Peace Force, but this would bring on major stresses within the force itself. Brazil and Paraguay, for instance, might well refuse to go along.

If Balaguer wins, the leftist opposition would undoubtedly try to organize an armed rebellion. Thus either way points to the need for the continued presence of the peace force.

"Over the long term, we should recognize that we have a five to ten year chore ahead" to establish any lasting climate of Dominican stability.

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8. Rhodesia

9. Common Market

French terms for resolving the Common Market crisis were very tough today, according to early reports from Luxembourg. Couve de Murville, for one thing, stuck to his hard line on majority voting.

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10. Nigeria

Lagos is quiet but the situation is fluid.

General Ironsi has tried to maintain some semblance of legality. However, his sweeping emergency measures now look more like part of a move to take over the coup rather than an effort to reverse it. In any event, his efforts are quite clearly aimed at breaking the control of the conservative northerners over the federal government.

The US Embassy in Lagos has strong doubts about Ironsi. Although he seems to have some influential civilian support, his record both as an officer and administrator is definitely poor.

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